

CITY OF CARLSBAD**COUNCIL POLICY STATEMENT**

DATED:

Policy No.

75

Date of Issue:

Effective Date

Cancellation Date

Supersedes No.

Subject: City Government Channel Policy

Copies to: City Council, City Manager, City Attorney, Department Heads and Division
Heads, Employee Bulletin Boards, Press, File**PURPOSE:**

This policy is to define the purpose, goals, objectives and programming priorities for the city government channel (currently Time Warner 24/126, collectively "channel" and future channels provided by AT&T and future video service providers), CBTV. This policy includes guidelines for accepting content from other government agencies and the allocation of channel time. The proposed City Council policy will grant authority to the City Manager or his/her designee for overall operations, programming activities and program scheduling.

BACKGROUND:

In 2006 the passage of the state franchise law Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act of 2006 (DIVCA) changed some requirements for local cable companies, such as Time Warner Cable. On January 1, 2008, DIVCA became effective and created a statewide franchising process for the delivery of video services, shifted customer service to local entities, and changed public education and government (PEG) access requirements and support. Effective January 1, 2009, Time Warner Cable's duty to support PEG channel facilities shifted to local PEG channel operation. This meant the city took over responsibility for producing City Council meetings. Additionally the city is also responsible for programming a city government channel, currently designated on the Time Warner system as 24/126. AT&T and future video service providers are also required to make the necessary technical arrangements to carry the city's government channel and to abide by the channel policy.

POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the city's channel to provide government programming of interest to the residents of Carlsbad concerning the functions, activities, programs and issues of the city and to facilitate the community's ability to learn about and participate in city government. Live and recorded programming will be used when available for playback.

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The objectives of the city's government channel are as follows:

- To inform the Carlsbad community about city issues, programs and services.
- To explain the opportunities for and encourage community participation in city decision making.
- To provide other governmental agency programming relating to city issues or city residents, produced in accordance with City of Carlsbad guidelines.

Programming viewed on the city's government channel must fall into one or more of the following programming categories. The programming categories are listed in order of priority:

1. **Emergency** - Live, taped, or text and graphics programming shown at any time, as emergency dictates, to disseminate emergency instructions and critical safety information to the public and to provide accurate and complete information regarding emergency incident cause, size, status, impact and resource commitments. The City Manager or his/her designee shall approve the content and scheduling of any emergency programming. In the case of an emergency, regularly scheduled programming maybe interrupted or canceled.

2. **Government Meetings/Hearings/Events** - City Council meetings are intended, to the extent possible, to be aired gavel-to-gavel without editing or editorial comment. Some public meetings, city functions and special events will be recorded and edited for length for airing at times convenient to the viewing public.

3. **City Services and Community Benefits** - Programming that provides information about city government services and projects.

4. **Other Government Agency Programming** - Other government agency programming relating to city issues or city residents, produced in accordance with these guidelines, including special districts, county, state and federal agencies, relating to non-partisan programs or information concerning government services or activities regarding their respective level of government's response to community issues of local concern.

A fee will be charged to other government agencies to cover all costs associated with preparation and scheduling of programming for playback.

This policy delegates to the City Manager the authority to adopt an administrative order to implement and carry out this policy.